

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.- 16. (*Cancelled*).

17. (*Currently Amended*) An information reproducing apparatus used in a transmitting/receiving system comprising a transmitting side and a receiving side,

(a) said transmitting side including:

(i) means for transmitting content information ~~to be transmitted together along~~ with corresponding transmission time information; and

(ii) means for transmitting transmission time information continuously after transmission of the transmitting content information ~~to be transmitted is ended~~ has been completed,

(b) said receiving side including:

(i) means for reproducing received content information ~~which is the information to be transmitted~~, and ~~reproducing~~ the transmission time information;

(ii) means for temporarily storing the received content information as stored content information and the received transmission time information as stored transmission time information when the reproduction is interrupted;

(iii) means for obtaining a time difference between the stored transmission time information and the received transmission time information when the reproduction interruption ~~of the reproduction is released~~ has been terminated;

(iv) means for allowing a reproduction of the stored content information if the time difference is less than or equal to a predetermined

value, and means for executing charging of pay information ~~in accordance with~~ based on the a value of the time difference; and

(v) means for ~~giving~~ presenting an audible and/or visual warning in ~~sound and/or in pictures of a display~~, if the time difference is ~~over~~ greater than the predetermined value.

18. *(Cancelled)*.

19. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the received content information and the received transmission time information are stored in the storing means in an encrypted state.

20. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the received content information is information including encrypted television signals.

21. *(Currently Amended)* An information reproducing method used in a transmitting/receiving system including a transmitting side and a receiving side, comprising:

(a) in the transmitting side, :

(i) transmitting content information ~~to be transmitted together~~ along with corresponding transmission time information; and

(ii) transmitting transmission time information continuously after transmission of the ~~transmitting~~ content information ~~to be transmitted is ended~~ has been completed,

(b) in the receiving side, :

(i) reproducing received content information ~~which is the information to be transmitted, and reproducing the~~ received transmission time information;

(ii) temporarily storing the received content information as ~~the~~ stored content information and the transmission time information as ~~the~~ stored transmission time information when the reproduction is interrupted;

(iii) obtaining a time difference between the stored transmission time information and the received transmission time information when the reproduction interruption ~~of the reproduction is released~~ has been terminated;

(iv) ~~making a reproduction of the~~ reproducing the stored content information if the time difference is less or equal to than a predetermined value, and executing charging of pay information ~~in accordance with~~ based on the value of the time difference; and

(v) ~~giving warning in sound and/or in pictures of a display,~~ presenting an audible and/or visual warning if the time difference is ~~ever~~ greater than the predetermined value.

22. (*Currently Amended*) An information reproducing apparatus for a transmitting/receiving system having a transmitting side and a receiving side, comprising:

(a) on the transmitting side,

(i) a transmitting portion ~~which transmits~~ configured to transmit content information ~~to be transmitted together~~ along with corresponding transmission time information and in which the transmitting portion continues to transmit the transmission time information after ~~completing the~~ transmission of the content information ~~to be transmitted~~ has been completed;

(b) on the receiving side,

(i) a reproducing portion ~~which receives~~ configured to receive and reproduce the content information ~~to be transmitted~~ and the transmission time information ~~and reproduces the information to be transmitted and the transmission time information~~;

(ii) a storing portion configured to temporarily ~~stores~~ store the content information ~~to be transmitted~~ as stored content information ~~to be transmitted~~ and the transmission time information as stored transmission time information when reproduction is interrupted;

(iii) a time-difference-obtaining portion ~~which obtains~~ configured to obtain a time difference between the stored transmission time information and current transmission time information received after the interruption is terminated; ~~and~~

(iv) a conditional-reproduction portion ~~which reproduces~~ configured to reproduce the stored content information ~~to be transmitted~~ if the time difference is less than or equal to a predetermined value; ~~and~~

(v) a charging portion ~~which executes~~ configured to execute charging of pay information ~~in accordance with~~ based on a value of the time difference; ~~and~~

(vi) an output portion ~~which gives~~ configured to provide an audible and/or visual warning ~~in sound and/or in pictures of a display~~, if the time difference is ~~ever~~ greater than the predetermined value.

23. – 26. (*Cancelled*).